

Virginia Resource-Use Education Council Meeting Minutes Library of Virginia - May 5, 2005

Members Present:

Jennifer Buff	Bob Carroll	Barry Fox
Lane Williams	Cindy Duncan	Jennifer Comfort
Carol Zokaite	Nancy Drumheller	Dee DeRoche
Robin Jones	Steve Yob	Virginia Witmer
Rebecca Askew	Ann Mallek	Sonya Wolen
Tamra Willis	Blue suit	Jeff Corney
Bill Portlock	Eric Rhoades	Tim Taglauer
	Paula Klonowski	

Ann introduced new members. Minutes were tabled for any more corrections that may be needed. There is no new treasurer's report and very little financial activity since our last meeting.

Bay Academy Updates

VCU is offering 3 graduate credits for \$300 for Chesapeake Bay Academy participants. The Coastal Academy is full with 35 people registered plus a waiting list. There is time for anyone who wants to help provide program elements, especially for Monday. Wed and Thurs they will be at Port Isabel island.

The Headwaters Academy is also full. The number of canoes at Douthat State Park is the only limiting factor. Carol wondered if there was enough budget to go over the intended number of participants. Perhaps more people can attend if they are willing to pay their own way. The informal discussion with NOAA is to submit another three year BWET proposal to fund both academies for the next three years.

Any free resources that are appropriate for the teachers attending these academies can be routed to Bill Portlock or Carol Zokaite for distribution. Feel free to help with or visit either academy EXCEPT for the boat trip segments.

Green Toolbox Curriculum

The curriculum is composed of activities to supplement Science SOL 6.9. The VMA Outreach Committee is sponsoring the project. Project Committee members include Paula Klonowski, Eric Rhoades, Bill Portlock, Ann Regn, Jim Firebaugh, Susan Booth, and others. *It needs review by natural resource agencies.* The curriculum can be viewed on-line at <http://www.aaec.vt.edu/vma>. Revisions were requested by May 6, however the funding to print is not currently available so we should have a larger time window to submit changes.

Jeff Corney suggested that his Master of Education graduate students could take on fine-tuning such a project if there were funds to support the necessary assistance-ships.

The original intent was for it to be more student-oriented. Barry will peek at the water sections. Other members volunteered, and Suzie asked that everyone please take

some time to look it over. Send your comments to Ann Regn by email with a deadline of July 1. They also wanted this to be an interactive resource, so please add any pertinent web-links.

Fall EE Conference – “Our Ecological Footprint”

This will be our EE first conference in five years. The dates are Sept. 7 & 8 at Chanco on the James, a lovely camp in Surry County. Session proposals are due by May 18 and can be submitted online. This event is aimed at professional development for non-formal EE providers a.k.a. Virginia Naturally partners, as opposed to classroom teachers. Teachers are welcome, however it is a weekday event. Space is limited--we can only accommodate 150 conference attendees.

Barry asked for the length of time for the Breakout Sessions. Ann said it was a bit open-ended, but that typical sessions would be one hour. There is a drop-down list of choices for the time length. Barry suggested a Roundtable session or Share Fair where everyone has tables of their local materials. DEQ needs ideas for keynote speakers. . David Baldacci author of Wish You Well, but he has a conflict. Tamra suggested Mahoney from Canada who speaks about opponents coming to consensus.

Ann encouraged us all to think about conducting sessions that will benefit the many newcomers to the field of EE.

Strategic Plan for VRUEC

Director Maroon had suggested earlier that we compile a short list of measurable objectives that could be included in the current Governor's last budget.

[Carol mentioned that the Virginia big-eared bat has been voted our state bat.]

Ann suggested the increasing funding/number of Outdoor Classrooms established or the number of schools implementing the elements of the Green School legislation. Jennifer wondered about identifying all of the steps that a school has to go through to create an effective Outdoor Classroom. Tim asked about our emphasis on communities at our January meeting, in other words going beyond the limits of the school. Of course some schools could make use of nearby parks instead of building outdoor classrooms. Jennifer suggested that it still be a dedicated part of the park designed to meet the needs of the school. In the business plan there is mention of an environmental center in each community. Ann wondered if we could link this to the interest in Greenways and the Governor's interest in more outdoor activity for youth to promote health. Jennifer suggested we follow up on the morning's suggestion that we need an Outdoor Classroom Coordinator. Carol was concerned that there needs to be a professional development effort behind each outdoor classroom or green school component so that the teachers know how to use them as instructional tools. Tamra stated that it needs to be an integrated part of the school curriculum.

Supt. Memo # 19 from April 29th is the request for MWEE information. The deadline for responses is **June 1**. There will be one person reporting for each school division.

Lane is experiencing a shift to stormwater education in her agency. She asked how this can be tied to community expectations in the Business Plan.

Suzie reflected that our comments would help meet community “bullets” in the Business Plan as well as the Outdoor Classroom expectations. Tim wondered about using the existing recognized classrooms as a starting point. Suzie mentioned that there are so many schools with great EE facilities but who don't apply for recognition. The schools that have applied for Outdoor Classroom grants might be a good starting point also.

Jennifer asked if we had a definition for the Outdoor Classroom criteria. Eric and Paula had done a GIS study that pointed at 17 rural counties that could use some assistance in applying for and implementing BWET grants.

The interest seems to be in thinking of community-level projects that show some real environmental improvements. Bill, Tamra, Lane, Jennifer, Barry, and Lisa volunteered to work with Suzie and Ann to compile a concrete list of ideas over the next few weeks for our agency directors and Secretaries to consider with an emphasis on funding for outdoor classrooms, professional development, community connection.

Report to Governor

Please send information to Ann or Suzie that can be compiled as a list of items describing how the goals of the EE Business Plan have thus far been met.

Other Items of Business/News

Sarah Portlock will be working on the revision of the VRUEC Natural Resources Education Guide this summer. Please look at the sections that pertain to your office and submit revisions to the Office of EE.

Carol worked with Brenda Brand's Science Methods class at Tech. She was impressed with their use of agency programs in their lesson plans.

Tamra Willis representing Mary Baldwin College was approved as a new member. She mentioned that there is a Leaf Pack workshop on June 17. The Leaf Pack network is based in PA and is a macroinvertebrate study program. She still has funds for 4-5 teachers in the Rivanna watershed to participate.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Deaton
May 5, 2005
3 pages